

Message Text

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20

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NEA-10 SSO-00 CCO-00

NSCE-00 USSS-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /157 W

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R 071345Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO COMIDEASTFOR

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5759

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

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CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1531

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MA, US

SUBJ: MIDEASTFOR TURNOVER PORT VISIT TO DIEGO-SUAREZ

REF: COMIDEASTFOR 050707Z NOV 73

BEGIN SUMMARY: MALAGASY RESPONSE TO PROPOSED PORT VISIT TO DIEGO-SUAREZ COULD BE INFLUENCED BY RECENT MIDDLE EAST AND INDIAN OCEAN DEVELOPMENTS, BUT ONLY ASKING WILL DETERMINE ANSWER. WE RECOMMEND PROCEEDING WITH ROUTINE FORMAL CLEARANCE REQUEST. BELIEVE MALAGASY WILL DELAY REPLY UNTIL WE PUSH FOR IT.END SUMMARY.

1. AS INDICATED REFTEL, MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT COULD INFLUENCE MALAGASY RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR TURNOVER PORT VISIT TO DIEGO-SUAREZ IN DEC. MALAGASY COULD PROVE RELUCTANT ACQUIESCE IN VIEW THEIR DIP ACTIONS TOWARD ISRAEL (OUSTER ISRAELI DIP PERSONNEL AND RECALL MALAGASY DIP PERSONNEL FROM ISRAEL, AND U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT SUPPORT TO ISRAEL IN RECENT CONFLICT.

2. IF MALAGASY SHOULD PURSUE THIS LINE, WE WOULD REFER TO FONMIN
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RATSIRAKA'S STATEMENT, IN RESPONSE QUESTION DURING WASH VISIT IN

JULY, THAT SHIPS OF ALL NAVIES HAVE RIGHT MAKE CALLS AND UTILIZE FACILITIES AT DIEGO-SUAREZ. HE ADDED THAT OBJECTIVE OF VISIT MUST BE COMPLETELY CONSISTENT WITH MALAGASY NEUTRALITY POLICY, AND SHIPS EN ROUTE TO ENGAGE IN ACTS OF WAR AGAINST OTHER COUNTRIES IN REGION NOT WELCOME. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, POINT OUT U.S. NOT ENGAGED IN MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT, AND IN FACT HAS DONE UTMOST BRING ABOUT CEASE-FIRE AND TO BRING PARTIES TOGETHER FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

3. AS FOR EFFECT DEPLOYMENT SEVENTH FLEET TASK FORCE IN INDIAN OCEAN ON PORT VISIT TO DIEGO-SUAREZ, GOMR HAS NOT, AT LEAST AS YET, RAISED MATTER WITH US OR MADE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT. MEDIA HAVE COVERED DEVELOPMENT AND LIMITED ADVERSE COMMENT HAS APPEARED IN LEFTIST PRESS. THIS WOULD THUS APPEAR LESS IMPORTANT FACTOR WITH RESPECT TO PROPOSED PORT VISIT THAN U.S. RELATION TO MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT.

4. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT REALLY KNOW WHAT MALAGASY ATTITUDE AND RESPONSE ON VISIT WILL BE UNTIL WE ASK GOVT. TACTICALLY, I NOW THINK IT BETTER NOT SEAK SPECIEL APPOINTMENT WITH RATSIREKA TO RAISE MATTER AS THIS APPROACH COULD TRIGGER QUICK "NO". SEEMS BETTER TO PROCEED WITH ROUTINE FORMAL REQUEST FOR CLEARANCE. WE WOULD PLAN HAVE DCM CARRY DIP NOTE OF JAYUA T TO DIRECTOR BILATERAL RELATIONS RATSIMANDRESY, AND REFER TO CONVERSATION WITH HIM IN SEPT, ON PRESENTATION MIDEAST FOR FOURTH QUARTER 1973 SCHEDULE, WHEN RATSIMANDRESY SAID THERE WOULD BE NO DIFFICULTIES ABOUT SCHEDULED TURNOVER VISIT TO DIEGO-SUAREZ.

5. ON TIMING, WE REALIZE YOU PREFER EARLY ANSWER, AND NEED ANSWER BY GIVEN DATE SHOULD IT BECOME NECESSARY MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALTERNATIVE PORT. ON OTHER HAND, LONGER WE WAIT TO SUBMIT REQUEST, BETTER OUR CHANCE OF POSITIVE REPLY (IF MIDDLEEAST CEASE-FIRE CONTINUES AND, PARTICULARLY, IF THERE IS MOVEMENT TOWARD NEGOTIATION). HOWEVER, OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS MALAGASY WILL AVOID SAYING "YES" OR "NO" FOR A WHILE, PREFERRING DELAY ANSWER UNTIL WE START PUSHING FOR ONE IN ORDER SEE WHAT HAPPENS IN MIDDLE EAST.

6. THUS OUR INCLINATION IS SUBMIT ROUTINE VISIT CLEARANCE REQUEST BY YOUR SUGGESTED DATE OF NOV 18 IF YOU CAN LET US HAVE ALL THE USUAL LOGISTICAL DATA NEEDED FOR THAT PURPOSE. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE VERY LATEST DATE BY WHICH YOU WOULD HAVE TO HAVE MALAGASY RESPONSE.

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Message Attributes

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